



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 7, 2004

### **H.R. 4061** **Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children** **in Developing Countries Act of 2004**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations  
on March 31, 2004*

H.R. 4061 would establish within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) a new Office for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children. The office would be responsible for reviewing and approving all assistance provided by USAID to orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries and for coordinating all such assistance provided by other government agencies. The bill also would require the President to create a system for monitoring assistance to orphans and vulnerable children and to provide detailed reports to the Congress on such assistance. Based on information from USAID, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4061 would require an additional 15 staff members and cost about \$2 million each year, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

The United States provides hundreds of millions of dollars of assistance to children and their families in developing countries through bilateral assistance programs, such as the child survival and health programs fund; through contributions to international organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and through other assistance, such as the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants. In addition, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 requires that 10 percent of the \$3 billion each year that is authorized by that act be spent for assistance to orphans and other children affected by HIV/AIDS.

H.R. 4061 would provide specific authorization for assistance to orphans and vulnerable children: to provide basic care, to provide medical treatment and psychological support for children affected by HIV/AIDS, to provide school feeding programs, to increase educational opportunities and employment training, and to protect the inheritance rights of orphans. Those programs are currently being undertaken by USAID and other agencies under more general authority. The bill would not authorize the appropriation of additional funds for those programs; however, it would require centralized review and approval of all assistance

to orphans and children undertaken by USAID and coordination of other agencies' assistance to children by the new office in USAID.

Based on information from USAID, CBO estimates the new office would require a staff of between 30 to 45 personnel to review and approve all assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children, to create and maintain a monitoring system, and to prepare the required reports. We estimate that 15 of those would be new positions and that it would cost an additional \$2 million each year to operate the office, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds.

H.R. 4061 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.